



2025

**UB** University at Buffalo®  
The State University of New York

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIXTH



SCHOOL OF LAW  
**COMMENCEMENT**

Sunday,  
May 18, 2025  
1:00 P.M.

Center for the Arts  
North Campus

S. Todd Brown  
*Dean*  
*Professor of Law*

Christine Pedigo Bartholomew  
*Vice Dean for Academic Affairs*  
*Professor of Law*



# Program

## Processional\*

*Selections from Pomp and Circumstance  
by Edward Elgar  
Cathedral Brass*

## Marshal & Mace Bearer

Lucinda M. Finley  
*Frank G. Raichle Professor of Trial & Appellate Advocacy;  
Director of Appellate Advocacy*

## Opening Declaration

Professor Lucinda M. Finley

## National Anthem\*\*

Julia Pitarresi  
*BFA, Music Theatre '25*

## Greetings

Satish K. Tripathi  
*University President*

## Dean's Remarks

S. Todd Brown  
*Dean  
Professor of Law*

## Keynote Address

Hon. Craig D. Hannah '95  
*Associate Justice  
New York State Supreme Court  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department*

## Alumni Welcome

Robert C. Brucato, Jr. '90  
*UB Law Alumni Association President*

## Student Address

Nicia Bottini Morales '25

## Presentation of Ken Joyce Excellence in Teaching Award

Hon. Michael M. Mohun (Ret.) '80

Christine Pedigo Bartholomew  
*Vice Dean for Academic Affairs  
Professor of Law*

## Awards & Prizes

Vice Dean Christine Pedigo Bartholomew

Luis E. Chiesa  
*Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity & Belonging  
Dr. Teresa A. Miller Professor in Law*

## Herald

Lisa M. Patterson  
*Director of Externships & Access to Justice Initiatives  
Teaching Faculty*

## Conferral of Degrees

President Satish K. Tripathi

Dean S. Todd Brown

## Hooders

Vice Dean Christine Pedigo Bartholomew

Vice Dean Luis E. Chiesa

David E. Coombs  
*Lecturer in Law*

Jorge Luis Fabra-Zamora  
*Associate Professor of Law*

Paul Linden-Retek  
*Associate Professor of Law*

## University Alma Mater\*\*

Julia Pitarresi

## Closing Declaration

Professor Lucinda M. Finley

## Recessional\*

*Triumphal March from Aida  
by Giuseppe Verdi  
Cathedral Brass*

*\*Audience will remain seated during the Processional and Recessional.*

*\*\* Please stand if able.*

*The University at Buffalo School of Law is strongly committed to a policy against discrimination based on race, color, religious creed, sex, disability, national origin, age, marital status and sexual orientation, in accord with the non-discrimination policies of the State of New York, the SUNY Board of Trustees, the University at Buffalo, the Association of American Law Schools, the American Bar Association, and the New York State Rules of Professional Conduct. We support efforts to effectuate this policy with respect to all protected individuals.*

*Unless otherwise noted, class years indicate graduation dates from the University at Buffalo School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree.*



## SUNY Trustee and UB Officials

### Eunice Ashman Lewin

*Member of the State University of New York Board of Trustees*



President and co-founder of Impacto Consulting Associates, Eunice Ashman Lewin joined the SUNY Board of Trustees in February 2010. She serves on the board's Executive Committee and co-chairs

the Student Life Committee. She also serves on the committees for academic affairs, communications and external affairs, community colleges, and academic medical centers and hospitals.

A former commissioner of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Lewin was a founding member of the Roswell Park Alliance and a board member of the Buffalo Urban League and Hispanics United of Buffalo. She is a member of the Hispanic Women's League and the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable.

In 2024, Lewin was named chair of the Buffalo Urban League Board of Directors, dedicating herself to its mission of ensuring African Americans and others in underserved communities achieve their highest true social parity, economic self-reliance, power and civil rights.

A retired bilingual social worker for the Buffalo Board of Education, she is a champion for STEM education.

Born in Guantanamo, Cuba, Lewin immigrated to the United States with her family in 1967. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Marymount Manhattan College, a master's degree in American and Puerto Rican studies, and an EdM in educational administration, both from UB.

### Jerry Jacobs Jr.

*Chairman of the University at Buffalo Council*



Jeremy "Jerry" M. Jacobs Jr. is the chief executive officer of Delaware North, a role he shares with his brothers, Lou and Charlie. He also serves as an alternate governor to the Boston Bruins.

As CEO, Jacobs oversees the company and its operating subsidiaries, focusing on strategic growth, corporate governance and financial management. He joined Delaware North in 1986 and held progressive leadership roles before becoming CEO in 2015.

Jacobs is actively involved in numerous philanthropic, civic and business organizations in Buffalo and across the country. His current board positions include The Corps Network, Mimivax and the Jacobs Institute. He is also a member of the U.S. Travel Association's CEO Roundtable and the Partnership for New York City.

Jacobs was a founding board member of Say Yes Buffalo, and he has dedicated more than two decades of service to the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, including past chairmanships of the board of directors and the annual fundraising campaign. He is a past member of the Board of Regents at Georgetown University and past chair of the Nichols School's Board of Trustees. He also served three terms on the University at Buffalo Foundation board.

Jacobs holds an MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and a BA from Georgetown University.

### Satish K. Tripathi

*University President*



An internationally distinguished researcher and higher education leader, Satish K. Tripathi, PhD, is the University at Buffalo's 15th president.

Tripathi, who served as UB's provost from 2004-

2011, was dean of the Bourns College of Engineering at the University of California, Riverside, from 1997-2004. Previously, he spent 19 years as a professor of computer science at the University of Maryland, including seven as department chair.

In 2024, Tripathi was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A fellow of IEEE and AAAS, he has published more than 200 scholarly papers, supervised more than 30 doctoral and postdoctoral students and served on program committees of numerous international conferences.

Tripathi graduated at the top of his class from Banaras Hindu University (BHU). He holds a master's degree and doctorate in computer science from the University of Toronto, as well as master's degrees in statistics from the University of Alberta and BHU. He has received honorary doctorates from Maharaja Surajmal Brij University, the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, and Brock University.

Tripathi co-chairs the Association of American Universities (AAU) Task Force on Expanding U.S.-India University Partnerships, serves on the College Football Playoff Board of Managers and the boards of University Innovation Alliance and Internet2. Previously, he chaired the Mid-American Conference Council of Presidents and Internet2 and served on the boards of the AAU, NCAA Division I, NCAA Board of Governors, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

## **A. Scott Weber**

*Provost and Executive Vice President  
for Academic Affairs*



As provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, A. Scott Weber, PhD, serves as the university's chief academic officer, providing leadership across the academic enterprise including research, scholarship and

creative activities; undergraduate, graduate, professional and international education; faculty development; inclusive excellence initiatives; and university libraries. Weber is leading the implementation of the university's vision to be recognized among the top 25 public research universities in the nation, focused on building on UB's strengths to achieve new levels of excellence in research, scholarship, education, clinical care and engagement.

A UB faculty member since 1983, Weber is an innovative scholar, teacher and former chair of UB's Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering. Prior to his appointment as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, Weber held several other senior administrative roles at UB, including senior vice provost for academic affairs, where he was instrumental in the creation of the UB Curriculum and nationally recognized Finish in 4 program; and vice president for student life, where he focused on enhancing the student experience and promoting overall student wellness.

Weber serves on New York's Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Board for Chemical Waste Management. He is a former board member and current advisory committee member of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County.

Weber earned bachelor's and master's of science degrees in civil engineering from Virginia Polytechnical Institute and a PhD in civil engineering from the University of California, Davis.

## **S. Todd Brown**

*Dean and Professor of Law*



S. Todd Brown was appointed the 21st dean of the School of Law in May 2024, after serving as interim dean for nearly one year. A member of the law school faculty since 2009, he teaches bankruptcy, contracts,

corporations, torts, mass torts, and related courses. From 2016 to 2023, he served as vice dean for academic affairs, overseeing the law school's curriculum and leading the advancement of its academic programs.

A highly regarded expert on bankruptcy trusts, Chapter 11, complex litigation, and mass torts, Brown is frequently quoted by national and international media outlets. His scholarship has been cited in a variety of state and federal opinions, and he has testified before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, state legislatures, the American Bar Association's Task Force on Asbestos and Bankruptcy Trusts, and the American Bankruptcy Institute's Commission to Reform Chapter 11.

Before entering academia, Brown was the managing partner of a small business and practiced with the law firms WilmerHale in Washington, D.C., and Jones Day in D.C. and Cleveland. He received a bachelor's degree in philosophy, summa cum laude, from Loyola University, a juris doctor degree from Columbia Law School, where he served as articles editor of the *Columbia Business Law Review*, and a master of laws degree from the Beasley School of Law at Temple University.

## Special Guest

### **Hon. Craig D. Hannah '95**

*Associate Justice*

*New York State Supreme Court*

*Appellate Division, Fourth Department*



The Hon. Craig D. Hannah is an associate justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department. He began his legal career in a variety of positions, including assistant district attorney in the Erie County District Attorney's Office; assistant corporation counsel for the City of Buffalo's Department of Law; legal counsel for the New York Senate; and as a private practitioner. In January 2006, he was appointed by Mayor Byron W. Brown as a Buffalo City Court judge. In 2016, he was reelected to a second 10-year term.

Justice Hannah served as chief judge of the Buffalo City Court and the supervising judge of the 11 city courts in the Eighth Judicial District encompassing Western New York. He was the first person of color to serve as a supervising judge in the Western New York region.

He rose to national fame as the presiding judge of the first Opioid Intervention Court in the United States, established in May 2017. He has been featured in such major media publications as the *New York Times*, *NBC News*, *MSNBC* and *HBO Vice News* and has been credited with saving the lives of hundreds of participants who have successfully completed programs through opioid intervention.

In June 2024, Justice Hannah was appointed to the New York Supreme Court by Governor Kathy C. Hochul. He was elected to a full 14-year term in November 2022. Sixteen months later, on March 28, 2024, Justice Hannah was elevated by the governor to the Appellate Division, Fourth Department.

Justice Hannah has been the recipient of numerous honors including Jurist of the Year presented by the Buffalo Special Police Benevolent Association in 2008, and the Afro-American Police Association's Community Service Award presented in 2013. In 2018 he received Hilbert College's President's Medal, the Bar Association of Erie County's Outstanding Jurist Award and the UB Law Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award for the judiciary. In 2020 Justice Hannah was bestowed the Transformative Leadership Award by the City of Buffalo for his positive contributions to the community and enhancing the image of Buffalo. Most recently, he was named the 2024 Jurist of the Year by the Legal and Business Professionals of Erie County.

A 1995 graduate of UB School of Law, Justice Hannah is a member of the Dean's Advisory Council, a former vice president of the UB Law Alumni Association, and serves as an adjunct faculty member at the law school. A proud member of the prestigious Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness, he has served on the leadership boards of multiple community organizations.

# Ken Joyce Excellence in Teaching Award

*Presented by Professor and Vice Dean for Academic Affairs Christine Pedigo Bartholomew to a member of the adjunct faculty for excellent teaching and longstanding service to the School of Law.*

## Hon. Michael M. Mohun '80

*(Acting) Justice, NYS Supreme Court, Eighth Judicial District (Ret.)  
Multi-Bench Judge, Wyoming County Court (Ret.)*



Hon. Michael M. Mohun was elected to the Wyoming County, Family and Surrogate Court bench in the Eighth Judicial District in 2013. While serving in that role, he was also appointed an acting New York State Supreme Court justice for the Eighth Judicial District.

He began his judicial career as town justice for the Town of Bennington in 1998. During his seven-year tenure there, he served as an acting village justice for the Village of Perry and the Village of Warsaw.

Prior to joining the bench, he established a private practice focused on criminal defense and represented lawyers and judges facing disciplinary proceedings.

Justice Mohun is the recipient of the New York State Bar Association's 2020 Vincent E. Doyle Jr. Award for Outstanding Judicial Contribution in the Criminal Justice System, and the UB Law Alumni Association's 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award for the judiciary.

In 2023, Justice Mohun retired from the bench, having reached the mandatory retirement age of 70. A 1980 graduate of UB School of Law, he is currently an adjunct faculty member at the law school, a member of the Dean's Advisory Council, and an appointed judicial hearing officer with the Office of Court Administration.

## Ken Joyce Award Recipients

2012	Steven R. Sugarman '85
2013	Helen A. Drew-Meosky '88
2014	Hon. Thomas (Tim) P. Franczyk
2015	Garry M. Graber '78
2016	John R. Nucheren*
2017	Christen E. Civiletto
2018	Jennifer R. Scharf '05
2019	William F. Savino '75
2022	Daniel D. Kohane '79
2023	Hon. Glenn Murray
2024	William M. Murray

*\*Awarded posthumously*



# Awards and Prizes

## Max Koren Award

is presented to the member of the graduating class, who, in the judgment of the faculty and the dean, has exemplified the highest standards of the profession by virtue of scholastic achievement, leadership and dedication to the ideals of the law. The selected student will receive a certificate and a prize. This award is supported by a gift from M. Robert Koren, Class of 1944, and son of Max Koren.

## John N. Bennett Achievement Award

is presented to the member of the graduating class judged by the faculty to demonstrate the highest scholastic achievement in the graduating class. The winner's name is inscribed on the Bennett Cup, which is displayed in the School of Law. The award is named in honor of John N. Bennett, Class of 1933.

## Dale S. Margulis Award

is presented to a member of the graduating class who has contributed the most to the School of Law and the community. Candidates for the award are nominated by members of the graduating class, and the recipient is selected by the deans. Dale S. Margulis, a member of the class of 1982, died suddenly in August 1982. His classmates, family and friends established this award to honor his memory.

## Bachelor of Arts in Law Achievement Award

is presented to the member of the Law BA graduating class judged by the undergraduate faculty to demonstrate the highest scholastic achievement in the graduating class in law major courses.

## The Faculty Award

recognizes an outstanding member of the School of Law faculty as voted on by the graduating class.

## The Staff Award

recognizes an outstanding member of the School of Law staff as voted on by the graduating class.

*The following awards and prizes were announced at the Student Awards Convocation held on Saturday, May 17, 2025.*

## Carlos C. Alden Award

is presented to the member of the graduating class making the greatest contribution to the *Buffalo Law Review*, as decided by the Law Review editors and the faculty adviser. Carlos C. Alden was dean of the School of Law from 1904-1936 and Professor of Law from 1904-1955.

## Award for Excellence in the Study of Health Law

is presented to the student who demonstrates exceptional academic performance in the area of health law. The recipient is selected by the faculty.

## Award for Excellence in the Study of Intellectual Property Law

is presented to the student who demonstrates exceptional academic performance in the area of intellectual property. The recipient is selected by the faculty.

## Award for Excellence in the Study of Labor and Employment Law

is presented to the student who demonstrates exceptional academic performance in the areas of labor and employment law. The recipient is selected by the faculty.

## Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) Outstanding Student Award

is presented to a student who has excelled in assisting or representing individual or organizational clients; and who has provided thoughtful exploration of legal, ethical, strategic, professional, and other pertinent issues raised in a particular clinic.

## Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) Outstanding Externship Student Award

is presented to a student who has excelled in assisting or representing individual or organizational clients; and who has provided thoughtful exploration of legal, ethical, strategic, professional, and other pertinent issues raised in a particular externship.

### **Robert J. Connelly Trial Technique Awards**

are presented to the students who have the best performance record in the course in trial technique, as selected by their instructors. The award is presented in honor of Robert J. Connelly, who was an exceptionally able trial lawyer prior to his tragic and untimely death at age 44.

### **Professor Louis DelCotto Award**

is given to the member of the graduating class whose academic performance in the area of taxation is outstanding, as recommended by the faculty. The award commemorates Louis A. DelCotto, Class of 1951, a beloved professor who taught tax law from 1961 to 1998, and developed the sequence of courses in taxation taught at the School of Law.

### **Justice M. Dolores Denman Award**

was established by the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York and commemorates the Honorable M. Dolores Denman, Class of 1965, who was the first woman to be named presiding justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department. The Denman Award is presented to a member of the graduating class who is a custodial parent to offset the costs of daycare and other child-rearing expenses during the bar study period.

### **Monique E. Emdin Memorial Award**

is given to one or more graduating students who are members of groups traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession and who demonstrate a commitment to community service, including significant service in faith-based communities, and/or have made significant contributions to the law school through involvement in student groups. This award memorializes Monique E. Emdin, a graduate of the class of 2007, a former associate at Hiscock & Barclay LLP, and a dedicated member of the Bethesda World Harvest International Church.

### **Maurice Frey Award**

is given to the member of the graduating class whose academic performance in the area of family law is most exceptional. It is named to honor the memory of Maurice Frey, a prominent attorney who cared deeply about legal education, created the Trial Technique Program, and taught at the School of Law for a number of years. He also worked tirelessly in the community to ensure that our legal system served and protected all members of our society.

### **William R. Greiner “Committed Humility” Award**

is presented to the student in the graduating class who, in the opinion of the Vice Dean for Student Affairs and the two most senior members of the faculty, best exemplifies the style of leadership that distinguished Bill Greiner. In his roles as Associate Dean of the School of Law, and as Associate Provost, Provost, and for 13 years President of the University, he exemplified an openness to the opinions of others, humane compassion for individuals, a sense of perspective and proportion, a love of humor and irony, and, most importantly, an acceptance of personal fallibility.

### **Justice Philip Halpern Award**

is given to the member of the graduating class for excellence in writing on the *Buffalo Law Review*. Prior to becoming a justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Justice Halpern was dean of the School of Law and a member of the faculty for 27 years. The winner is determined by the editorial board and the faculty adviser.

### **Professor Thomas E. Headrick “Trees and Forest” Award**

is given to the student of corporate finance who most clearly recognizes that a corporate practitioner needs both to understand the transaction fully and to get the details precisely correct.

### **Judge Matthew J. Jasen Appellate Practice Award**

is presented to the member of the graduating class who in course work and Moot Court Competition has shown outstanding achievement in appellate advocacy. The award is given to honor the memory of Judge Jasen, Class of 1939, and is supported by his friends and former clerks.

### **Milton Kaplan Award in Law and Social Development**

is named to honor the memory of Milton Kaplan, Professor of Law from 1965 to 1986. As teacher and colleague, Professor Kaplan is admired for his selfless dedication to students and colleagues and for his penetrating yet admirably unassuming scholarship. Throughout his career, he was committed to the shaping of law to improve the conditions of public life in local communities around the world. The Milton Kaplan Award honors a member of the graduating class who best demonstrates exceptional commitment to the study of law and social development in an American, comparative, or international context.

## Awards and Prizes

### **James M. Kieffer Trial Excellence Award**

is presented to the member of the graduating class whose proficiency in trial advocacy has been most outstanding. Selection is based on performance in both coursework and trial competitions. The award is named in memory of James M. Kieffer, a nationally recognized trial attorney who practiced in Western New York.

### **David Kochery Award**

is provided by the family and friends of David Kochery who taught at the School of Law from 1953 to 1980. It is awarded to a member of the graduating class who best exemplifies the traits of community leadership through service outside the school and involvement in one or more student organizations.

### **Dan D. Kohane '79 Insurance Award**

is presented to the student who demonstrates exceptional academic performance and shows an abiding interest in the field of insurance law. The recipient is selected by the faculty.

### **The Lavender Gavel Award**

recognizes a graduating student for their outstanding efforts and accomplishments in the pursuit of LGBTQ+ visibility, dignity, and civil rights.

### **Professor Virginia Leary Award**

is given to the member of the graduating class whose academic performance in the area of international law is outstanding, as recommended by the faculty. The award is given in memory of Virginia Leary, a beloved SUNY Distinguished Service Professor who taught international law from 1976 to 1995 and developed the sequence of courses in international law taught at the School of Law.

### **The Minority Bar Foundation's Legal Commencement Award**

is presented to a member of the graduating class who, in the judgment of the Minority Bar Foundation and the School of Law, has exemplified the high standards of the profession by virtue of scholastic achievement and leadership, and who has demonstrated a significant commitment to effectuating changes within the legal system that address the needs of the minority community.

### **Moot Evidence Award**

is presented to the member of the graduating class for the best performance in the area of evidence as determined by the faculty. The award is given in honor of Welles and Caroline Moot and in remembrance of Adelbert Moot, who taught evidence in the founding years of the School of Law.

### **Albert R. Mugal Award**

is given to the member of the graduating class who has demonstrated the greatest proficiency in future interests and estate planning law. The award is named to honor the memory of Albert R. Mugal, Class of 1941, a founder of the law firm of Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugal. He taught future interests and estate planning at the School of Law as an adjunct professor for over fifty years. During his long career in practice, he served the community with great distinction.

### **Ryan J. Mullins Award**

is given to the member of the graduating class demonstrating the greatest commitment to and proficiency in criminal law and criminal trial practice skills. Ryan J. Mullins, a member of the class of 2005, died suddenly in September 2003. To honor his memory, his classmates, family, friends and members of the School of Law community established this award.

### **The Order of Barristers**

is a national oralists honors society. The members include students who have shown dedication and who have excelled in the art of oral advocacy and service to the law school's moot court program. Each year, eight to ten students are elected to membership in the organization as nominated by the Director of Appellate Advocacy.

### **The Order of the Coif**

is an honorary scholastic society whose philosophical roots stretch back to medieval English jurisprudence. Coif membership is offered to graduating students who display excellence in legal education by demonstrating a spirit of careful study and academic success. New members who demonstrate such scholarly success join lawyers, judges, and teachers who have attained high distinction for their continued scholarly or professional accomplishments. UB School of Law has been a member since 2014. Students selected for this distinction are denoted in the list of JD candidates by †.

### **Harry A. Rachlin Prize in Real Property Law and Real Estate Transactions**

was established by the family of Harry A. Rachlin, Class of 1926, who during his lengthy and renowned career was a leading authority regarding the New York State Lien Law. Mr. Rachlin served as a lecturer and maintained an ongoing interest in the welfare of University at Buffalo School of Law students. The prize is awarded to members of the graduating class who exhibit excellence in research, clinical and academic performance in the areas of real property law, housing, housing finance and real estate transactions as determined by the faculty and administration of the School of Law.

### **Judge William J. Regan Award**

is given to the member of the graduating class who has demonstrated the greatest proficiency in estates and surrogate's law, and who is motivated by a strong concern for public service and public welfare. The award is named to honor the memory of Judge William J. Regan, Class of 1938, and Erie County Surrogate from 1963 to 1981. During his long career in practice and on the bench, he served the community with great distinction. This award is supported from a fund donated by friends of Judge Regan.

### **UB Law Alumni Association's GOLD Group Award**

is given to the member of the graduating class who has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills in advancing the mission of the School of Law and enhancing its reputation for excellence in legal education.

### **Cornelius W. Wickersham, Jr. Award**

is presented to the member of the graduating class who is the highest-ranking student in the field of Constitutional Law. This award is given by the Federal Bar Council. The Federal Bar Council was formed in 1932 after breaking away from the national bar association to protest its refusal to admit minority bar members. Mr. Wickersham was its president from 1955-1957.

# Candidates for Degrees

*Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon those individuals listed herein who were identified by April 8, 2025 and upon such others as may meet the requirements of their respective degrees. Candidates are listed according to actual date of degree conferral: February 2025; June 2025 and August 2025.*

*Degree recipients will come forward to be congratulated during the commencement ceremony.*

## Recommending Candidates for Degrees

Dean S. Todd Brown

## Master of Laws

**June 15, 2025**

Aslan Alshet  
*LL.B., University of Mosul*  
*A.A.S., SUNY Erie*  
*A.S., SUNY Erie*

Rayyan Ejaz  
*LL.B., City, University of London*

Alex Hunt  
*LL.B., Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Morelos*  
*SUNY Buffalo State University*

Chioma Oleh  
*LL.B., University of Bristol*

Kimay Pakkiri  
*LL.B., University of Pretoria*  
*B.Comm in Law, Eduvos LTD*

Nirina Ralitera  
*M.L.,Universite d'Antananarivo*  
*B.A., Institut Catholique de Madagascar*

Seware Saket  
*B.A., The University of Jordan*

Angela Tang  
*LL.B., The National Police University for Criminal Justice*  
*M.J., Hunan University*

## Juris Doctor

**February 1, 2025**

Chris Atwood  
*M.S., Rochester Institute of Technology*  
*B.S., Rochester Institute of Technology*

Harman Gill  
*B.S., University at Buffalo*

John Winkowski  
*B.S., University at Buffalo*

## Juris Doctor

**June 15, 2025**

Summer Aikin  
*B.S., St. Mary's College*

Timothy Allaire  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*  
*B.S., University at Buffalo*

Olivia Anderson  
*B.A., Medaille College*

Stephanie Aubin  
*B.S., SUNY Brockport*

Isabella Bakshi  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Nate Baldo  
*B.A., University of Toronto*

Joseph Monte Balsamo  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Pamela Barres  
*B.S., University at Buffalo*

Mark Bassett  
*B.A., Michigan State University*

Asma Bawla  
*B.A., New York University*

Bryana Becker  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Morgan Bedford  
*B.S., Medaille University*

Natalia Beltre  
*B.A., Binghamton University*

Bethany Ben Abdallah  
*B.M., Grove City College*  
*B.S., Grove City College*

J.T. Benner  
*B.S., University at Buffalo*

Sara Beyer  
*B.A., George Washington University*

Katelyn Blencowe  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Nicia Bottini Morales †  
*M.S.W., University at Buffalo*  
*B.A., American University*

Sandya Serena Brahaspat  
*B.A., SUNY Geneseo*

Alexandra Brockhuizen  
*B.S., Elmira College*

Christina Brooks  
*B.S., SUNY College at Buffalo*

*Order of the Colf is denoted by: †*



Lillian Brown  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Alexis Buckner-Smerina  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Matt Budzinski  
*M.S., University at Buffalo*  
*B.S., University at Buffalo*

Giulia Lucia Buscaglia †  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Hannah Campbell  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Alyssa Carbone †  
*B.A., SUNY Oneonta*

Erin Carlin  
*B.A., SUNY Geneseo*

Bryan Carlo  
*M.B.A., University of Rochester*  
*B.S., Rochester Institute of Technology*

Andrew Cegielski  
*B.A., St. John Fisher College*  
*B.A., St. John Fisher College*

Chloe Charles  
*M.S., SUNY Buffalo State University*  
*B.A., University at Albany*

Jiyoung (Anna) Chung  
*M.A., Ewha Womans University*  
*B.A., Kyung Hee University*

Emily Cioch  
*B.A., Boston University*

Peter John Ciotta  
*B.S., Providence College*

Brian Comerford  
*B.A., St. Lawrence University*

Jessica Conrad  
*B.S., Hilbert College*

James J. Crowley IV  
*B.S., St. John Fisher College*

John D'Aquino  
*B.A. Binghamton University*

Alex DeAntonis  
*B.A., The College of Saint Rose*

Katharine England  
*B.A., Webster State University*

Dylan Feliciano  
*B.A., Binghamton University*

Ryan Fitzgerald  
*B.A., California Polytechnic State University*

Chris Flynn  
*LL.M., University of California, Berkeley*  
*LL.B., University of Ghana*  
*B.S., Kwame Nkrumah University*

Jacob Fogarty  
*B.A., LeMoyne College*

Mia Forney †  
*M.S.W., University at Buffalo*  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Andrew Fromen  
*B.A., The New School*

James Garvey  
*B.A., Canisius College*

Joel Geles  
*B.A., Canisius College*

Amelia Goodloe  
*B.A., Colgate University*

Michael Alexander Gossel  
*B.B.A., University of Notre Dame*

Zoe Green  
*M.S.W., University at Albany*  
*B.S., Skidmore College*

Allen Greer  
*B.A., SUNY Buffalo State University*

Grant Haffenden  
*B.A., St. Lawrence University*

Ciara W. Harrington †  
*M.S.W., University at Buffalo*  
*B.S., Syracuse University*

Amanda Hausmann  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Will Hecht  
*B.A., SUNY Geneseo*

Patrick Higgins  
*B.S., University at Buffalo*

Kristina Hill  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Madeline Hoestermann  
*B.A., University of Pittsburgh*

Abbygail Hoke  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Bailey Hughes  
*B.A., University of Missouri- Kansas City*

Kaitlin Hughes †  
*A.B., Georgetown University*

Keith Hurley  
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Paige Irvine  
*B.A., University of Virginia*

*Order of the Coif is denoted by: †*

# Candidates for Degrees

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*B.A., Ithaca College*

Katherine Kio †  
*M.A., University at Buffalo*  
*B.S., University at Buffalo*

Elizabeth Kostadinovski  
*B.S., Hilbert College*

Favorlyn Kpaka  
*B.A., University of Rochester*

Julia Laquidara  
*B.A., Binghamton University*

Renee Lauer  
*B.S., SUNY Brockport*

Theresa Lee  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Sierra Leitten  
*B.A., Siena College*

Josh Levesque  
*B.A., Nazareth College*

Tia Marie Lodato  
*M.S., Roberts Wesleyan College*  
*B.A., St. John Fisher College*

Katherine Logan  
*B.A., Johns Hopkins University*

Tara Lucombe  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Iliana Lukasik  
*B.A., Oberlin College*

Xiangyu Lyu  
*M.E., Osaka Daigaku*  
*B.E., Sichuan University*

Shelby MacSwan  
*B.S., Pennsylvania State University*

Isabella Mannino  
*B.A., Mount Holyoke College*

Katherine Manuszewski  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Thomas McKenna  
*B.A., University at Albany*

Amara Mitchell  
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Omar Morales-Lopez  
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*B.A., Illinois State University*

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Rani Patel  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Dakota Penkalski  
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*B.A., University College London*

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Braden Pritchard  
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Alicia Quarterman  
*B.A., Hobart and William Smith Colleges*

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*B.M., Berklee College of Music*

Natalia Quevedo de la Espriella  
*B.A., St. John Fisher College*

Zachary Raber  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

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*B.A., University of Rochester*

David Henry Reinhartz  
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*Order of the Colf is denoted by: †*

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Greg Schmidt  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Daniel Scully  
*B.S., University at Buffalo*

Evan Shine  
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*A.A., SUNY Genesee Community College*

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*B.S., University at Buffalo*

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*B.S., University of Pittsburgh*

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*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Quinn Webster †  
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Jonathan Whyte  
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Steven Whyte  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

Maddoc Williamson  
*B.A., University at Buffalo*

## **Juris Doctor**

**Aug 31, 2025**

Asher Havis-Walton  
*B.A., Canisius College*

*Order of the Coif is denoted by: †*

# Bachelor of Law

## Latin Honors

*Subject to completion of all degree requirements and satisfaction of the following minimum criteria, Latin honors may be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements. To qualify for Latin honors, students must present a minimum of 60 credit hours of UB undergraduate coursework, at least 54 of which must be graded credits (i.e., not satisfactory or unsatisfactory [grades of 'S' or 'U']). The UB GPA must be a minimum of 3.2 (to 3.499) for cum laude, 3.5 (to 3.749) for magna cum laude and 3.75 (to 4.0) for summa cum laude.*

*To receive the Latin honors designation in the printed 2025 commencement program, candidates for the June or August 2025 degree conferral date must qualify based upon their UB cumulative GPA through the Winter 2025 session and total number of UB credit hours projected through their final semester at the time of review. Standings for Latin honors MAY change once final grades are posted or degrees conferred.*

## Legend

Cum laude is denoted by: \*

Magna cum laude is denoted by: \*\*

Summa cum laude is denoted by: \*\*\*

## February 1, 2025

Leah Aaron  
Omkaar Acharya\*  
Mana (Mintalaah) Adnan  
Gabrielle Alexis  
Amatullaah Choudhury  
Elizabeth Costello\*\*  
Jacob Gelder\*\*\*  
Ethan Koenig\*\*\*  
Mishel Martin  
Jacob Ravitz\*\*  
Joseph Reiling  
Abigail Ryan  
Christopher Rybak  
Katyushka Yadhira Salvatierra Riva\*\*\*  
Helena Szumski\*\*  
Nancy Torres\*  
Kendall Wiltse\*  
Rebecca Wisner\*  
Gabrielle Zwifka

## June 1, 2025

Sarah Aguglia  
Mahnoor Ahmed\*\*  
Leslie Mae Alagna\*  
Alethea Ekaterine Allen  
Paige Allen  
Olivia Barth\*\*\*  
Barbra Bassaw\*  
Sarah Beckwith\*\*\*  
Savannah Breymeier\*\*\*  
Mya Rose Burkard\*  
Avery Rose Butler  
Ricardo Castillo\*\*\*  
Elizabeth Chamberlain\*  
Jessica Chavarria  
Jeny Chen  
Winston Chen

Christian Coggins  
Jose Luis Ferreira Constantino  
Autumn Cook\*\*  
Gianna Dalton  
Carley Delaney\*\*\*  
Yarlin Duque Perez  
Mira Eisenberg\*\*\*  
Arsela Farsi\*\*\*  
Kathleen Fromwiller  
Isabella Fuentes\*\*  
Salvatore Genco\*  
Waverly Gerena\*\*  
William Griffin\*\*\*  
Haleena Etaf Haddad\*\*\*  
Adrianna Hill\*  
Jackson Huntley  
Mousa Hussain  
Nour Jaber\*\*\*  
Dominique Khoury\*\*  
Natalie Kirner  
Clarissa Kornacki  
Madisyn LaPlant\*  
Hollie Lageman\*\*  
Brianna Ledee\*  
Kenyon Mahoney\*  
Cali Maier  
Abigail Malmstrom\*\*  
Madeline Mazur  
Ian McDonald  
Tori Mckee  
Abraham Metz\*\*\*  
Masoumeh Mirzai\*  
Noria Mogannahi  
Nusrat Nigar\*  
Chioma Catherine Nweke\*  
Lauren Paradis  
Karmen Patcherezova\*\*  
Colin Perney\*\*\*  
Kailie Peters\*\*

Hailey Prophyl\*  
Brendon Rodriguez\*\*  
Carter Roggenbaum  
Drew Roggenbaum\*  
Naomi Rose\*  
Rebecca Roy  
Sophia Saleta\*\*\*  
Havvanur Feyza Savas\*\*\*  
Sanjay Roshan Seecharan  
Benjamin Shanley\*  
Aleksandra Shuter\*  
Cassidy Simpson  
Miranda Smith\*  
Jonathan Suarez  
Jack Ebrahim Talebkhah  
William Trembley  
Kayla Tucay  
Allan Ujomu  
Griffin Wert  
Kumar Wise\*\*  
Michelle Witherow  
Aaliyah Yakatally\*\*\*  
Wilson Yang\*\*

**August 31, 2025**

David Agudo  
Anjali Saveena Boohit\*  
Felicia Hurd  
Alice Kamara  
Amanda Menendez  
Alayna Odien\*\*  
Stefanie Opacic  
Kelsey Tylec





# Academic Costume

The traditional costume worn at the Commencement Exercise is a record of academic achievement of the individuals taking part. Its use, which originated at English and European universities during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, came to the United States in 1754 with the founding of what is now Columbia University.

In 1895 the Intercollegiate Commission, a group of leading American educators, met at Columbia to draft a code which would serve to regulate the design of gowns and hoods for various degrees as well as to fix the colors that indicate the various faculties. This code has been adopted by most of the colleges and universities in America. It was revised in 1932 and again in 1959.

The level of degree held is indicated by the gown's cut. Doctoral gowns have full sleeves, which are round and open. Gowns worn by bachelors have long pointed sleeves, and those worn by masters have long, closed, somewhat fuller sleeves which reach nearly to the wearer's knees. The arm goes through a slit, giving the appearance of short sleeves.

The color as well as cut of the gown varies. Although most doctoral gowns are black, in some cases their color is that of the university conferring the degree. The doctoral gown is trimmed in velvet; it has three two-inch bars on the sleeves and a five-inch border extending from the back of the neck down the two sides in front. Although usually black, the velvet may be of a color that indicates the nature of the degree.

Master's and bachelor's gowns have no facing. The hood seems to have had a more practical origin. During the Middle Ages monks wore them to protect their shaved heads in the winter and as a container in which to collect alms. It is the most significant part of the academic dress. Its shape and size indicate the degree of the wearer, the color of the velvet border indicates the academic field, and that of the lining the color or colors of the institution granting the degree. The bachelor's hood is three feet long and has a two-inch velvet border, the master's is three and one-half feet long and has a three-inch border, and the doctor's is four feet with a five-inch border. The University at Buffalo hood is lined with blue and gold stripes.

The mortarboard cap has been conventionalized from the skull cap which was worn by monks of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The mortarboard is usually black. Tassels are worn over the left front quarter by degree holders; candidates wear the tassel over the right front quarter until the degree is conferred.

## Academic Recognition Items

### The Coif Disk

A felt disk is awarded to J.D./LL.M. students who are graduating in the top 10% of the class. Students are denoted by †.

### The Gold Cord

This cord is awarded to bachelor students who are graduating with Latin honors.

### The Grey and Red Stole

This stole was received by students who are University Honors College graduates.

## Non-Academic, University-Wide Recognition Items

### The Kente Stole

This stole was received by students who participated in UB's ALANA Celebration of Achievement which historically has honored graduating African, Latino/a, Asian and Native American students.

### The Rainbow Tassel and Lavender Stole

These items were received by students who participated in the Lavender Celebration, recognizing the achievements of graduating students who identify with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community at UB.

### The Red, White and Blue Cord

This cord is worn by graduating UB students who are active duty servicemembers, reservists, members of the National Guard, newly commissioned officers or veterans of the United States armed forces.

## **Non-Academic, School of Law Recognition Items**

### **The Blue and White Cord**

This cord was received by students who participated in one or more student social groups.

### **The Burgundy Cord**

This cord was received by students who participated in the *Buffalo Law Review*.

### **The Green Cord**

This cord was received by students who participated in a specialty journal.

### **The Purple Cord**

This cord was received by students who participated in moot courts and trial teams.

### **The Red and Silver Cord**

This cord was received by students who participated in our Clinical Legal Education Program.

### **The Royal Blue Cord**

This cord was received by students who participated in a law affinity student group.

### **The White Cord**

This cord was received by students who exhibit a strong commitment to pro bono services while in law school, having delivered more than 400 pro bono hours, or engaged in other extraordinary pro bono service.

*Graduating J.D. and LL.M. students may also wear recognition items unique to their own identity or individual student organizations. As of the printing of this program, the following student organizations have registered their own recognition items for this ceremony.*

### **Alternative Dispute Resolution Society (ADR)**

light blue and white cord

### **Asian Pacific Allied Law Student Association (APALSA)**

red and yellow stole

### **Black Law Students Association (BLSA)**

black Kente stole

### **Intellectual Property Law Society (IPLS)**

navy blue and gold cord

### **Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA)**

purple and latino serape stole

### **Law Students with Disabilities and Neurodivergencies (LSDN)**

light blue and teal cord  
disability flag pin

### **OUTLaw**

lavender and rainbow stole

### **Phi Alpha Delta (PAD)**

Executive Board: purple and white cord  
All Members: purple stole and purple and gold cord

### **Student Bar Association (SBA)**

Executive Board: blue and gold stole  
Class Directors: royal blue and gold cord

### **Student Wide Judiciary**

lime green cord

## **The School of Law Mace**

Traditionally used in university ceremonies, the mace is a symbol of "enlightened authority." It is carried by the ceremony marshal and mace bearer, who leads the procession to the commencement platform and proclaims an opening declaration.

The School of Law mace is crafted from wood and embellished with a bronze replica of an early version of the university crest, surrounded by the university's name in Latin. The crest features the image of a bison mounted on an escutcheon or shield, supported by the palms of victory.



# Administration

## Office of the Dean

S. Todd Brown  
*Dean*

Marlene M. Cook  
*Vice Dean & Chief Operating Officer*

Timothy Conti  
*Chief of Staff*

Kenneth Suski  
*Unit Business Officer*

Daniel A. Ortega  
*Director of Signature Events*

Lisa Lovullo  
*Executive Assistant to the Dean*

Tess Calvert  
*Staff Assistant*

## Academic Programs & Services

Christine Pedigo Bartholomew  
*Vice Dean for Academic Affairs*

Bernadette Gargano  
*Vice Dean for Experiential Education & Social Justice Initiatives*  
*Director of Clinical Legal Education*

Patrick Long '00  
*Assistant Dean for Professional Development*

William MacDonald  
*Assistant Dean for Academic & Bar Success*

Angelyn McDuff '12 (J.D.), '18 (LL.M.)  
*Director of the Legal Analysis, Writing & Research Program*

Laurel Root  
*Assistant Dean for Planning & Analytics*

Mateo Taussig-Rubbo  
*Director of the J.S.D. Program*

## Admissions

Lindsay J. Gladney  
*Vice Dean for Admissions*

Benjamin Rogers  
*Associate Director of Admissions*  
*Director of 3+3 Programs*

Katherine Szymaszek  
*Manager of Recruitment & International Enrollment*

Justyce Ramsey  
*Admissions Coordinator*

## Advancement

Karen R. Kaczmariski '89  
*Vice Dean & Senior Director of Advancement*

Emilie B. Rosenbluth  
*Director of Advancement*

Jill M. Gowin  
*Assistant Director for Advancement Programs*

Anne M. Gaulin  
*Administrative Assistant for Advancement*

## The Advocacy Institute

Anthony O'Rourke  
*Director of The Advocacy Institute*

Lucinda M. Finley  
*Director of Appellate Advocacy*

Jennifer R. Scharf '05  
*Director of Trial Advocacy*

Steven R. Sugarman '85  
*Director of Mediation Clinic*

Dawn M. Skopinski  
*Associate Director of The Advocacy Institute*

## Alumni Affairs

Stephanie Mack '08  
*Executive Director of the UB Law Alumni Association*  
*Associate Director for Alumni Affairs*

Ilene R. Fleischmann  
*Vice Dean Emerita for Alumni Affairs*  
*Executive Director Emerita for the UB Law Alumni Association*

Amy Hypnarowski  
*Administrative Assistant for Alumni Relations*

Hannah Sigurdson  
*Staff Assistant for Alumni Relations*

## The Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy

Matthew Dimick  
*Director of The Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy*

Amanda Benzin  
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## Career Services

Jennifer R. Scharf '05  
*Associate Dean for Career Services*

Lisa Bauer  
*Assistant Dean for Career Services*

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Julie Jones  
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## Clinical Legal Education

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*Vice Dean for Experiential Education & Social Justice Initiatives*  
*Director of Clinical Legal Education*  
*Director of Access to Justice Clinic*

Heather R. Abraham  
*Director of Civil Rights & Housing Clinic*

Kim Diana Connolly  
*Director of Environmental Advocacy Clinic*

Helen "Nellie" Drew '88  
*Director of Sports Law Clinic*

Alexandra Harrington  
*Director of Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic*

Judith G. Olin '85  
*Director of Family Violence & Women's Rights Clinic*

Lisa M. Patterson  
*Director of Externships & Access to Justice Initiatives*

Matthew Pelkey '10  
*Director of the Entrepreneurship Law Center Clinic*

Steve Sugarman  
*Director of Mediation Clinic*

Alyssa Bergsten '19  
*Staff Attorney*

Annabel Mireles  
*Staff Attorney*

Jordyn Wysocki  
*Assistant Managing Director*

Julie Schuster  
*Senior Program Coordinator  
Paralegal*

Audrey Grout  
*Program Coordinator  
Legal Assistant*

### **Communications**

Lisa M. Mueller '93  
*Vice Dean for Communications*

Kristina L. Lively  
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Communications*

Rachael L. Krupski  
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### **Diversity, Equity & Belonging**

Luis E. Chiesa  
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Director of the Discover Law  
Undergraduate Scholars  
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### **Faculty Research and Support**

Mark Batholomew  
*Vice Dean for Research  
& Faculty Development*

Kim Diana Connolly  
*Vice Dean for Innovation,  
Interdisciplinarity & Community  
Impact*

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Deborah Rook  
*Faculty Assistant*

Krystin Wasser  
*Faculty Assistant*

### **Information Technology Services**

Brandon Tubinis  
*Operations Manager*

John Christensen  
*Systems Administrator*

Tedros Teklzghi  
*Help Desk Manager*

### **International & Graduate Programs**

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& Graduate Programs*

### **Law Library**

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Vice Dean for Legal Information  
Services  
Director of the Charles B. Sears  
Law Library*

Brian Detweiler  
*Associate Director of the  
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Miranda Ashby  
*Administrative Assistant to the  
Law Library Director*

John Beatty  
*Faculty Scholarship Outreach  
Librarian*

Theodora Belniak '10  
*Clinical Service Law Librarian*

Nina Cascio  
*International Law Librarian*

Rebecca Chapman  
*Undergraduate Law &  
Indigenous Outreach Librarian*

Amanda McCormick  
*Faculty Services Librarian*

John Mondo  
*Interlibrary Loan & Delivery  
Coordinator*

Christine Riggi  
*Access & Patron Services  
Librarian*

Latasha Towles  
*Legal Technologist*

Rachel Tucker  
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Tiffany Walsh  
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B. Austin Waters  
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### **Records & Registration**

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### **Student Affairs**

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Ashley Abbott  
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and Director of Student Life*

Cheri Tubinis  
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### **Undergraduate Program**

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Vice Dean for Undergraduate  
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# UB Alma Mater

*Music by Walter S. Goodale, MD, 1903.  
Lyrics adapted by UB students in 2006 for  
contemporary use.*



## **Verse 1:**

The pride of our spirit and tradition,  
Our alma mater's truth and name declare.  
Celebrate our history and wisdom,  
O let us all prepare to sing her glory.

## **Refrain:**

To Buffalo all hail to thee,  
Noble and strong it's our university!  
To blue and white pledge loyalty,  
Singing, I will always remember thee!

## **Verse 2:**

We'll ever keep our standards high,  
And sing UB's praises to the sky.  
Receiving the finest education,  
Our knowledge we impart unto the nations.  
*(Repeat refrain)*

## **Verse 3:**

Our friends we've made with ties that bind,  
A union of our spirit, heart and mind.  
Together we'll continue life's journey,  
O may dear Buffalo forever be.  
*(Repeat refrain)*

**ON THE COVER:**

The modern seal for the University at Buffalo harks back to a design adopted in 1923 to reflect the evolution of the university from separate schools into a more close-knit organization. Though the seal has been revised several times over the decades, the foundational elements remain: a proud bison signifying the City of Buffalo atop a shield supported by the palm leaves of victory and emblazoned with the flames of wisdom.

